



STORY TIME

POND CIRCLE

Story Time Description

Today we'll be reading *Pond Circle* by Betsy Franco; a poetic example of an ecosystem and food chain. This is a cumulative tale similar in rhythm and structure to "*The House That Jack Built*." On a summer night by a small pond, all seems still. A closer look reveals a world of activity. This story will inspire children of all ages to journey into their own backyard and discover the wonder of the world around them.

Children's Fiction and Nonfiction Books about Watersheds

- *What Do You Find in a Pond?* by Megan Kopp
- *Life in a Pond: Habitats Around the World* by Craig Hammersmith
- *Turtle Splash! Countdown at the Pond* by Cathryn Falwell
- *Pond Babies* by Cathryn Falwell
- *Scoot!* by Cathryn Falwell
- *Seasons of the Freshwater Pond Biome* by Shirley Duke
- *At the Pond* by David Schwartz
- *Good Morning Pond* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *Life in a Pond: Living in a Biome* by Carol K. Lindeen
- *Pond Food* by John Townsend
- *Look Inside a Pond* by Louise Spilsbury
- *At the Pond: Comparing Numbers* by Jane Gould
- *If You Were a Duck Where Would You Go?* by George Mendoza
- *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* by Anthony D. Fredericks
- *In One Tidepool : Crabs, Snails and Salty Tails* by Anthony D. Fredericks
- *Over and Under the Pond: Environment and Ecology Books for Kids* by Kate Messner
- *Over in the River: Flowing Out to the Sea* by Marianne Berkes
- *In the Pond* by Anna Melbourne
- *A River* by Marc Martin
- *Fish is Fish* by Leo Lionni
- *It's Mine!* By Leo Lionni
- *Pond* by Jim LaMarche

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- *The Raft* by Jim LaMarche
- *Fun in the Mud: A Wetlands Tale* by Sally Bolger
- *Pond Walk* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- *The Dark, Dark Night* by M. Christina Butler
- *Songs of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Songs* by Joyce Sidman
- *Marshes and Swamps* by Gail Gibbons
- *A Wetland Habitat: Introducing Habitats* by Molly Aloian
- *About Habitats: Wetlands* by Cathryn Sill
- *Jump, Frog, Jump!* by Robert Kalan
- *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming
- *Mama Don't Allow* by Thatcher Hurd
- *Splash!* by Ann Jonas
- *Across the Stream* by Mirra Ginsburg
- *All You Need for a Beach* by Alice Schertle
- *Hello, Ocean!* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Pond* by Donald Silver
- *Beyond the Pond* by Joseph Kuefler
- *On Duck Pond: On Bird Hill and Beyond* by Jane Yolen
- *Have You Seen My Duckling?* by Nancy Tafuri
- *One Duck Stuck* by Phyllis Root
- *Beaver at Long Pond* by William T. George
- *Be a Pond Detective: Solving the Mysteries of Lakes, Swamps, and Pools* by Peggy Kochanoff

Other Useful Resources

Field Guides

- *A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America* by R. Reese Jr. Voshell
- *Frogs, Toads & Turtles: Take Along Guide* by Diane Burns
- *Pond Life: A Folding Pocket Guide to familiar Plants & Animals Living in or Near Ponds, Lakes & Wetlands* by James Kavanaugh
- *Pond Life: Revised and Updated (A Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press)* by George K. Reid
- *Frogs and Toads (A Golden Guide from St. Martin's Press)* by Dave Showler
- *Ponds and Small Lakes: Microorganisms and Freshwater Ecology* by Brian Moss

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

www.dwr.virginia.gov

A Guide to Virginia Animals Bundle

This bundle combines 1 each of the Guide to Turtles of Virginia, Guide to Bats of Virginia, Guide to Snakes and Lizards of Virginia, and the Guide to Salamanders of Virginia.

YouTube

- *Who Lives by a Pond?* – You’ll meet the pond critters who live by a pond in this colorful illustration through an interactive song.
- *Pond Life* (Dale Calder) – Check out the close-ups of painted turtles, tadpoles, frogs and toads. You’ll also see the very well camouflaged beaver lodge.
- *Sesame Street: Kermit Sings On My Pond*

“Old MacDonald Had a Pond”

*Old McDonald had a pond E-I-E-I-O and in that pond he had a frog
E-I-E-I-O with a Ribbit, Ribbit here and a ribbit, ribbit there Here a
ribbit there a ribbit everywhere a ribbit, ribbit Old McDonald had a pond
E-I-E-I-O*

Here are some other suggestions:

Dragonflies quiver

Turtles are silent

Swallows swoop

Heron lunge

Ducks quack

Geese honk

Preschool Science Observing Pond Water

www.pre-kpages.com/science-kids-observing-pond-water

This activity encourages scientific observations with all the senses

Plant Virginia Natives

www.plantvirginiannatives.org **Download the guide**

Native Plants for Virginia’s Capital Region is a FREE guide published by the **Plant RVA Natives Campaign**. This guide showcases the attractive variety of plants native to the Virginia Capital Region, which includes Henrico, Hanover, City of Richmond, Chesterfield, Charles City, New Kent, Powhatan, Goochland, Cumberland, and Amelia.

Exploration – Discover Creeks and Ponds in Your Area

Exploring a pond or creek with young children is an unforgettable sensory experience they will never forget. Ponds and creeks are great for teaching children about ecosystems and life cycles. Visit your local parks and get to know the ponds and creeks. While you are there ask questions such as:

- Do you see any animals?
- What do you hear?
- How many insects do you see?
- Did you see any plants?
- What color is the water?
- What do you smell?
- How many things can you find to touch?

Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Nature:

- Take a walk to find a pond or a creek that is easy and accessible
- Learn about different types of watersheds
- Find and observe animals and insects from the water
- Teach children how to handle the insects and animals they catch
- Teach children how to safely return them back to their natural environment
- Provide field guides
- Provide bug nets, buckets (white or clear buckets work best), magnify lens, turkey basters, and ice trays
- Allow children to get wet and dirty
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials about ponds and other watersheds
- Utilize resources from this post